Third party mediation on Baglihar Project

392. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan Government has been disputing India's programme for implementation of the Baglihar Project;

(b) if so, the rationale, if any, put forward from Pakistan side in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to third party mediation by World Bank representative for settlement of the alleged dispute between India and Pakistan pertaining to this project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and rationale behind that?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Pakistan has been objecting to the construction of the Baglihar Hydroelectric Project by India on the ground that the plant does not confirm to certain provisions specified in the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960. India's position is that the Baglihar project has been designed in conformity with the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty.

Pakistan has, in January 2005, under the provision for "Settlement of Differences and Disputes" referred the case to the World Bank for appointment of a Neutral Expert to resolve the "points of differences" deemed to have arisen.

Although India believes that the reference to the World Bank by Pakistan was premature, it has agreed to cooperate fully and make available whatever technical details the Neutral Expert may require, within the parameters laid down in the Indus Waters Treaty.

Illegal Nepalese occupancy in Bihar

†393. SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Nepal has occupied 10 thousand acres of land in Susta region in Bihar and has also killed a number of Biharis;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that Nepal has been increasing its occupancy in this region;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Nepal has diverted the erosion of the river Gandak towards India by illegal deforestation and mining; and

(d) if so, the action Government are taking to take back the Indian territory from Nepal and for seeking compensation for the Biharis killed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) There are differences of perception between Government of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal on the alignment of boundary in Susta region of West Champaran District of Bihar, where in our views the Nepalese have encroached upon Indian territory.

Government are not aware of any reports to suggest that a number of Indians have been killed by the Nepalese in Susta region.

As rivers in this region do change course over a period of time; it is possible that this has happened in the case of the river Gandak, known also as river Kalyani in Nepal.

The Survey Departments of two countries are engaged in an exercise to resolve the issue to reach a mutually acceptable alignment of boundary in Susta region. In this context, a Joint Technical Committee (JTC) of India and Nepal has been set up to co-ordinate the work relating to inspection/restoration of missing/damaged pillars and resolving anomalies which have developed due to missing pillars, shifting of rivers etc., including in the Susta region.

Construction of roads by China near Border

394. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Government of China has been constructing roads near Districts Uttar Kashi and Pithoragarh area adjoining the international boundary of India and China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;